

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A photodetection arrangement including a photo detector;

supply circuitry for biasing the detector into incident light sensitive conduction;

a current sensing element in said supply circuitry to sense detector current, said element being selected such that its value is sufficiently low not to contribute a bias disruptive voltage drop due to said conduction of said detector;

a circuit for comparing said sensed current with a reference value; and

a circuit for removing said bias when said a reference value is exceeded, said a reference value being selected such that it represents onset of an overload of said detector; and

a comparator feeding a latch which is triggered upon an overload being applied to the detector,

wherein the latch controls a switch which acts to disconnect or remove said supply to said detector.

Claims 2 and 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (original): The arrangement of claim 1, wherein the sense element is a low value series resistor of a value too low to afford detector protection.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus claim 4 wherein value is of the order of 500 ohms.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A photodetection arrangement including a photo detector;

supply circuitry for biasing the detector into incident light sensitive conduction;

a current sensing element in said supply circuitry to sense detector current, said element being selected such that its value is sufficiently low not to contribute a bias disruptive voltage drop due to said conduction of said detector;

a circuit for comparing said sensed current with a reference value; and

a circuit for removing said bias when said a reference value is exceeded, said a reference value being selected such that it represents onset of an overload of said detector,

wherein the latch controls a switch which acts to disconnect or remove said supply to said detector.

The arrangement of claim 1 including a microcontroller arranged to control the supply circuitry, said microcontroller arranged to receive an interrupt upon the onset of overload and the to enter a wait routine to provide a delay before controlling the arrangement to resume normal operation.

Claim 7 (original): The arrangement of claim 6 and wherein the microcontroller is arranged to reset the latch after said delay.

Claim 8 (original): The arrangement of claim 6 wherein the microcontroller monitors detector output and determines a suitable delay based upon logged values before the onset of overload.

Claim 9 (original): The arrangement of claim 1 configured as test apparatus for a photo detector.

Claim 10 (original): The arrangement of claim 1 wherein the detector is an avalanche photo diode.